THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) The Siachin Glacier area is approximately 76 km in length and 6 to 8 kilometres in width.

(b) The entire Glacier is under India control.

(c) Does not arise.

Return of Srilankan Refugees from India

2722. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his visit to Colombo in connection with SAARC Summit Prime Minister held discussions with his Srilankan counterpart and Government to ensure return of Srilankan refugees from India;

(b) if so, the precise outcome of the talks; and

(c) the steps since taken to secure return of these refugees to Srilanka?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Following that meeting, in consultation and agreement with the Government of Sri Lanka, Government commenced the voluntary repatriation of Tamil refugees back to Sri Lanka from 20th January 1992. Upto 9th March, 1992 about 7874 refugees have been repatriated. The repatriation process is based on the indication by the refugees of their willingness to return and on the assurances by Sri Lanka Government regarding the safety, security and appropriate rehabilitation arrangements for the returnees.

Role of Non-Aligned Movement

2723. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take up the matter regarding role of Non-Aligned Movement in the global politics in view of the collapse of communist bloc with member countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The member countries of the Non-aligned Movement have examined the role and relevance of the Movement in the changed international situation at its recent meetings in Ghana and Cyprus. The consensus at these meetings was that the Movement should continue to voice the political and economic aspirations of the members of the Movement.

Steps to Propagate Indian stand on Nuclear Free Zone

2724. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to educate inform and enlighten the people of the newly formed independent republics after the dissolution of USSR, about India's stand on the formation of a nuclear free zone in South Asia as proposed in the recent Pak-resolution adopted at the UN; and

(b) what steps were taken in this direction with respect to the people of China, Japan, US, Britain, France, Germany, Pakistan, Bangladesh and others especially neighbouring countries?